Promotion of Housing Activities in the Country

914. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering further fiscal concessions and legal reforms to promote housing activity in the country;

(b) if so, whether States have been asked to sent reports in this regard; and

(c) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Sir, Fiscal concessions are an ongoing process and the Government consider proposals received from various organizations representing the urban sector and recommend the same to Ministry of Finance at the time of formulation of budget.

(b) Yes, Sir. States have been also asked to take action to encourage housing through fiscal and legal reforms.

(c) The broad features involve housing friendly rent control and building laws, and favourable stamp duty and other duties.

Privatisation of Water Supply in Delhi

915. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to privatise water supply in Delhi and other metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has no proposal to privatize water supply in Delhi and other metropolitan cities. Since this is a State subject, it is for the State Governments and metropolitan authorities to decide on this issue. The Ministry held a national seminar on Private Sector Participation in Water Supply and Sanitation in New Delhi on 7-8 Feb., 2000 to sensitise the participants from the State Governments on the various issues involved and to provide exposure to international experience in this field.